CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of comprising:

    receiving a call connection request message having a prefix number;

    determining a corresponding IP address based on the prefix number;

    assigning a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

    routing the call connection request message based on the label.

2. The method of claim 1, further including:

    creating an entry in a routing table containing an IP address and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for the set of prefix numbers.

3. The method of claim 2, further including:

    transmitting an update message containing the IP address and the set of prefix numbers.

4. The method of claim 1, where the prefix number is in a format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers having a country code portion and a national significance portion.

5. An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon, which when executed, causes:

3   receiving a call connection request message having a prefix

4   number;

5   determining a corresponding IP address based on the prefix

6   number;

7   assigning a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

8   routing the call connection request message based on the

9   label.

1   6.   The article of claim 5, wherein the computer readable medium

2   further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed,

3   causes:

4   creating an entry in a routing table containing an IP address

5   and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP

6   address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for

7   the set of prefix numbers.

1   7.   The article of claim 6, wherein the computer readable medium

2   further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed,

3   causes:

4   transmitting an update message containing the IP address and

5   the set of prefix numbers.

1   8.   The article of claim 5, where the prefix number is in a

2   format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers

3   having a country code portion and a national significance portion.

1   9.   An apparatus for transporting data using label switching

2   comprising:

3   a processor;

4   a computer readable medium having instructions stored

5   thereon, which when executed, causes the processor to:

6   receive a call connection request message having a prefix

7   number;

8   determine a corresponding IP address based on the prefix

9   number;

10   assign a label based on the corresponding IP address; and,

11   route the call connection request message based on the label.

1   10.   The apparatus of claim 9, where the computer readable medium

2   further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed,

3   causes the processor to:

4   create an entry in a routing table containing an IP address

5   and a set of prefix numbers associated to the IP address, the IP

6   address being assigned to a central office that handles calls for

7   the set of prefix numbers.

1   11.   The apparatus of claim 10, where the computer readable medium

2   further having instructions stored thereon, which when executed,

3   causes the processor to:

4   transmit an update message containing the IP address and the

5   set of prefix numbers.

1   12.   The apparatus of claim 9, where the prefix number is in a

2   format conforming to ITU E.164, representing a set of numbers

3   having a country code portion and a national significance portion.